

States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Illinois Congressional delegation.

Adopted by the Senate, November 18, 1999.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

H.R. 1487. A bill to provide for public participation in the declaration of national monuments under the Act popularly known as the Antiquities Act of 1906 (Rept. No. 106-250).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

The following bills and joint resolution were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. THOMAS:

S. 2300. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for coal that may be held by an entity in any 1 State; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GORTON (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2301. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of the Lakehaven water reclamation project for the reclamation and reuse of water; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CLELAND:

S. 2302. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the enhanced deduction for corporate donations of computer technology to public libraries and community centers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAHAM:

S. 2303. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14900 Southwest 30th Street in Miramar City, Florida, as the "Vicki Coceano Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S. 2304. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to phase out the taxation of social security benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAYH:

S. 2305. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the marriage penalty by providing a nonrefundable marriage credit and adjustment to the earned income credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THOMPSON (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. ROTH):

S. 2306. A bill to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 2307. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to encourage broadband deployment to rural America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MOYNIHAN (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2308. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to assure preservation of safety net hospitals through maintenance of the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DASCHLE:

S. 2309. A bill to establish a commission to assess the performance of the performance of the civil works function of the Secretary of the Army; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. COVERDELL (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HELMS, and Mr. DEWINE):

S.J. Res. 43. A joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President of the United States should encourage free and fair elections and respect for democracy in Peru; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KERREY:

S. Res. 278. A resolution commending Ernest Burgess, M.D. for his service to the Nation and international community; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LOTT:

S. Con. Res. 99. A concurrent resolution congratulating the people of Taiwan for the successful conclusion of presidential elections on March 18, 2000, and reaffirming United States policy toward Taiwan and the People's Republic of China; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENT ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THOMAS:

S. 2300. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for coal that may be held by an entity in any one State; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

COAL MARKET COMPETITION ACT OF 2000

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Coal Market Competition Act of 2000. The legislation would amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the acreage of coal leases. Companies need this assurance as they plan and finance their operations into the future. Now, more than ever, we need to diversify our Nation's resources. The current oil prices are a daily reminder of what occurs when we allow this country to be too dependent on foreign resources. It is time to focus on domestic energy production and this legislation will facilitate development of one of our Nation's abundant natural resources, coal.

Most of the coal produced in our Nation comes from mines west of the Mississippi River and the vast majority of that coal is mined in western states with significant federal ownership of both the surface and mineral estates. In fact, my state of Wyoming is home to 11 of the top 12 coal mines based on tonnage. We produced approximately one third of the total U.S. coal in 1999, with production exceeding 330 million tons last year. Not surprisingly Wyoming is also the leader in federal coal lease acreage with approximately

145,000 federal acres under lease to 20 companies.

The current federal coal lease limitation under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 is 46,080 acres per state. An amendment of the Mineral Leasing Act in 1976 maintained the per-state limit and added a 100,000-acre nationwide limit for any one company. The state coal lease limit has not been changed for 36 years. Coal, sodium, phosphate and oil and gas were all assigned identical or similar per state lease acreage limitations in the 1926 amendments to the MLA (2,560 acres per state for sodium, coal and phosphate, 2,560 acres per geologic structure and 7,680 acres per state for oil and gas). The acreage limitation for each of these minerals was increased in the 1946 and 1948 MLA amendments (coal, sodium and phosphate to 5,120 per state in 1948; oil and gas to 15,360 acres per state in 1946). The per state acreage limitation for oil and gas leases was increased twice more (to 46,080 acres in 1957 and 246,080 acres in 1960) and the per state acreage ceiling for coal (and phosphate) leases was increased once more to 46,080 acres (and 20,480 acres for phosphate) in 1964. In my view, it is time to address the coal acreage limitations both on a state and national level.

The cap on coal needs to be raised to allow producers to remain competitive in the world-wide market. In Wyoming, the coal mine sizes will need to increase in order to maintain economic competitiveness. Our coal industry has grown and prospered because its economic competitiveness allowed Wyoming to be the location of choice for new low-sulfur coal capacity to serve much of the world. The scale of mining operations is much larger now.

In order for this competitiveness to continue, we must raise the acreage cap to alleviate concern from several companies in both Wyoming and Utah about the effect of the limitation on their planning and production abilities. Larger lease acreage areas are required to justify the significant capital investment necessary for mine expansion. Under current leasing operations, the penalty for violation of the acreage limitation is lease cancellation. It is essential during a time like now—when oil prices are soaring—that we diversify and develop our Nation's energy sources rather than be dependent on foreign sources. Expanding lease acreage will allow coal to be competitive and it is essential we have choices for energy here at home.

By Mr. GORTON (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2301. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of the Lakehaven water reclamation project for the reclamation and reuse of water; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.